

The Bethlehem Star



The newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
www.bethlehembayridge.org

June 2017

In this month's Beth Star...

- Message from Pastor Paul
- Calendar, activities, schedule, including Father's Day, New Member Sunday, the Healing Center Interfaith Breakfast, and more
- Church Council highlights
- Reports from Lutheran Elementary School of Bay Ridge, The Bay Ridge Center, The Healing Center, and the Lutheran Counseling Center



Sunday
10:30 AM
Worship Service
followed by coffee
hour



Friday, June 2
6:00 PM
Bay Ridge Center
Nite @ the Races

LES Baccalaureate

Sunday
June 11
10:30 AM



Friday, June 16
6:30 PM
Bethlehem
Women's Group



Sunday, June 18
10:30 AM
New Member
Sunday

Join us for all of our services and events



Our Mission

To serve God and God's people. To live our faith daily through worship, and providing education, support, nourishment, compassion, good counsel, love, and service to the larger community welcoming all who join us in this mission.



Our Welcome

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome within the membership of this congregation and are encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this Christian family.

Pastor Paul's Monthly Message for June

Dear Members and Friends,

My final short story for my 8th Grade Christian Living class was "The Falcon" by Giovanni Boccaccio. Love stories have been around forever and this is one of the best. It was written in Italy in the 1300's. The main character, Federigo, gave up everything in order to win over his true love. He lost his money and his possessions. He needed to work, rather than enjoy a privileged life. Finally, he sacrificed his one last joy, his treasured falcon, in order to please the woman he loved. The end result, Federigo's true love finally discovered his life of sacrifice for her, they wed, and lived happily to the end of their days.

This month, I have the privilege of performing the marriage ceremony for my daughter, Jessica and her fiancé, Peter. I met with them to plan out their ceremony and then we went out to dinner together. They wanted me to ask all the questions I would normally ask a couple prior to their wedding. Over dinner, I asked them about:

- Roles around the house (traditional, equal sharing, reversed)?
- Time with each other (work responsibilities, friends together/separate, hobbies)?
- How each handles conflict (openness to communicate feelings)?
- Finances (saver vs. spender). Similar financial goals?
- Family/in-laws?
- Children: How many and when?
- Religious convictions?

My hope in any of these discussions is that there are no surprises. Never do I want a couple to discover something new or troubling about their future spouse. They need to know what each other's answers will be. Thankfully, Jessica & Peter seem very in tuned to each other and ready to share their life together. I will have the pleasure of seeing their love grow first hand.

There is no magical advice for me to provide to couples who come to me to get married. I do know however, that a godly sacrificial love is not only the right answer for our life as Christians in this world. A godly sacrificial love is also the right answer for a successful relationship with a partner in marriage. To long to do for the other and make one's partner happy is critical for a lasting relationship. To put someone else's needs before one's own and focus on the well being of one's spouse is so important. Of course, this needs to go both ways in order for a relationship to be successful, but sacrificial love is so key.

This is my hope, prayer and desire for Jessica & Peter. This is my hope, prayer and desire for all who come to me to be married. This is my hope, prayer and desire for all who are in a committed relationship. Sacrificial love, a willingness to give, provides the foundation for a life of happiness and joy.

In God's Service,

Rev. Paul H. Knudsen

Pastor

6/1 @ 7:00 p.m. -- Bay Ridge Community Council Dinner/Dance
6/2 @ 6:00 p.m. -- BRC Nite @ the Races fundraiser
6/4 @ 9:00 a.m. -- New Member Class in School building
6/4 @ 9:15 a.m. -- Adult Bible Study Class in Parish Room
6/4 @ 10:30 a.m. -- Sunday morning worship w/ Confirmation Sunday
6/5 @ 6:30 p.m. -- BRC Board of Directors
6/7 @ 6:30 p.m. -- Healing Center Board of Directors
6/11 @ 9:00 a.m. -- New Member Class in School building
6/11 @ 9:15 a.m. -- Adult Bible Study Class in Parish Room
6/11 @ 10:30 a.m. -- Sunday morning worship w/ LES Baccalaureate
6/13 @ 7:00 p.m. -- LES Graduation Banquet
6/15 @ 7:30 p.m. -- LES Graduation
6/16 @ 10:30 a.m. -- LES Closing Chapel & Last day of school
6/18 @ 9:00 a.m. -- New Member Class in School building
6/18 @ 9:15 a.m. -- Adult Bible Study Class in Parish Room
6/18 @ 10:30 a.m. -- Sunday morning worship w/ New Member Sunday
6/20 @ 7:00 p.m. -- Church Council
6/25 @ 10:30 a.m. -- Sunday morning worship
6/27 @ 10:00 a.m. -- Healing Center Interfaith Breakfast @ Borough Hall
6/27 @ 7:00 p.m. -- LES School Board

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church should see Pastor Paul. All classes are held in Pastor's office in the LES school building at 9:00 a.m.

June 4th
June 11th
June 18th

June 2017

Services | Activities | Special Events | Meetings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 pm Boy Ridge Community Council Dinner/ Dance 7:15 pm—AA	2 6:00 pm BRC Nite @ the Rac- es Fundraiser 7:00 pm—Scouts	3 7:15 pm—AA
4 9:00 am—New Member Class in School building 9:15 am—Adult Bible Class in Parish Room 10:30 am—Confirmation Sunday Worship followed by Coffee Hour	5 6:30 pm BRC Board of Directors 7:15 pm—AA	6	7 6:30 pm Healing Center Board of Directors	8 7:15 pm—AA	9 7:00 pm—Scouts	10 4:00 pm WEDDING Kristen DelPiv & Shawn Wodecki 7:15 pm—AA
11 9:00 am—New Member Class in School building 9:15 am—Adult Bible Class in Parish Room 10:30 am—LES Baccalaureate Sunday Worship followed by Coffee Hour	12 7:15 pm—AA	13 7:00 pm LES Graduation Banquet	14	15 7:30 pm LES Graduation	16 10:30 am LES Closing Chapel Last Day of School 6:30 PM BLC Women's Group on Pastor's Patio 7:00 pm—Scouts	17 7:15 pm—AA
18 9:00 am—New Member Class in School building 9:15 am—Adult Bible Class in Parish Room 10:30 am—New Member Sunday Worship followed by Coffee Hour	19 7:15 pm—AA	20 7:00 pm Church Council	21	22 7:15 pm—AA	23	24 7:15 pm—AA
25 10:30 am—Sunday Worship followed by Coffee Hour	26 7:15 pm—AA	27 10:00 am Healing Center Interfaith Breakfast @ Borough Hall 7:00 pm LES School Board	28	29 7:15 pm—AA	30	

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

5/7 – 87
5/14 – 118
5/21 – 83
5/28 - 52

Bethlehem: The Growing Church!

MONTHLY OFFERING

March: \$8,174.00
April: \$13,870.00
May: \$8,287.00

God's great work at Bethlehem needs your financial support!

FELLOWSHIP

6/4 - Confirmation Sunday Coffee Hour & Birthday Celebration for Rose Barron
6/11 – Bacculaureate Coffee Hour
6/18 – New Members Coffee Hour
6/25 – Coffee Hour

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Every Sunday morning In the Parish Room
9:15 – 10:15 a.m. led by Carl Jacobsen



WEDDINGS

June 10th: Kristen DelPin & Shawn Wodecki
June 24th: Jessica Knudsen & Peter Aloisio

YOUTH MINISTRY

Break Until September

VOLUNTEER?

Anyone interested in partaking in the Worship Service, as Communion Preparers, Communion Assistants or Lectors, please speak to Dennis Monsen!

Coffee Hour Volunteers ~ so we can enjoy food/fellowship every week!
Please sign up!

More



OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

On June 4th we will witness the affirmation of faith by

- Zachary Geier
- Frida Mesa
- Collin Norvin
- Kent Norvin
- Dillon Stephansen

We welcome them to our congregation as confirmed members. There will be a Coffee and cake reception in their honor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 LES GRADUATES!

- Justin Blake – Xaverian High School
- Gianni Boera – Xavier High School - ROTC
- Sydney Carmosino – Fontbonne Hall Academy
- Rachel Cheriyan – St. Saviour High School
- Irina DiCunto- Fontbonne Hall Academy
- Valentina Garcia- Bishop Kearney High School
- Zachary Geier – Sports Management High School
- Robert Knapp – Xaverian High School
- Damian Pulla – Xaverian High School
- Marcus Roszko – St. Edmund Preparatory High School
- Zarwa Sami – St. Joseph Hill Academy
- Lucinda Showers – St. Saviour High School
- William Soued – Xaverian High School
- Liam Specht – Edward R. Murrow
- Joseph Stasiak – Xavier High School
- Anastasios Stathopoulos Fort Hamilton High School
- Emily Valsamedi – St. Saviour High School
- Rose Walsh – Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School

BIRTHDAYS

6/3 - Rose Barron
6/7 – Danny Ramirez
6/8 – Beth Tuccillo
6/10 – Robbie Heier
6/11 – Marie Cannistra
6/12 – Joe Greco
6/14 – Karen Eggleston
6/17 – Hunter Stocklmeier
6/18 – Zack Geier
6/19 – Anna Aboltins
6/20 – Margie Greco
6/22 – Corinne King
6/23 – Janet Cerutti / Lisa Johansson / Jessica Knudsen
6/26 – Joanne Creen / Martin Finkelstein
6/28 – George Stuart / Emily Bakke
7/12 – Amanda Okun
7/15 – Gary Solberg, Jr.
7/16 – Linda Schaefer

Best Wishes

7/17 – Angela Vallecillo
7/20 – Dagny Sleight
7/23 – Lois Frontera (Koehler) / Andrew Solberg
7/28 – Michelle DelPin
7/31 – Michael King, IV
8/2 – Dennis Cerutti /Kathy Reilly
8/5 – Bridget Amy
8/6 ~ Christine Scanlon/Janice Zaugg /Kim Tran
8/16 ~ Michael Pietrafesa
8/19 – Peter Saliu
8/20 – Gary Solberg, Sr.
8/21 – Dennis Cerutti, II
8/22 - Aiden Costadura
8/27 – Bill Videbeck
8/31 – Roy Bakke

ANNIVERSARIES

6/5 – Lorraine & Bill Tuccillo ~6/13 – Joanne & Ed Creen
6/16 - Kathy & Marty Finkelstein ~6/22 – Carol & Peter Saliu
7/12 – Linda & Tom Schefer
7/28 – Elaine & Matt Caruso
8/28 – Helen & Mike Roszko

NURSING HOME

Christine Scanlon, Reymundo Lariosa

IN SYMPATHY

James Erickson – May 18th. Sympathy to his son Jason (Graduate of LES)

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers* 

HEALING & STRENGTH

Robert Serrano, Hermicenda & Hery Vallecillo, Billy Whelan, Doris Whelan, Donna & Indal Balkissoon, Bob Muselli, Lon Dayhoff, John Maceda, Caroline Hildreth, Shirley Tuccillo, Peter Fistanic, Marcus Caban, Ann DeMarco, Lenny Thompson, Anna Aboltins, Karen Kozoriz, Dawn Valentine, Helen Wires, Ed Shipwright, Carl and Mindy Jacobsen, Anne Okun, Anna Marie Zarr, Mario Torres, Anna Atilas, Wei Jiang, Laura Woltman, Rose Barron, Marietta Blanchette, Norma McGrath, Helge Henriksen, Herb Steike, Charlie Cossentino, Meghan McEvoy, Edna Weber, Ken Weber, Mia Frangoulis, Hope Cevalis, Cynthia Gilibert, Joseph Musco, Chloe Elizabeth Sletholt, Sheri Wilborn, Beverly Malmbeck, Kevin Flannery, Sr., Mike Riquier, John Fowler, Kristine Larsen, Adam Torres, Ruth Kennedy, Robert Hofmo, Mike Roszko, Family of Janet Adamski

Church Council Highlights — May 23, 2017 Meeting

Bay Ridge Center (presented by Pastor Paul)

- The NYC Department For The Aging (DFTA) assessments for both our financial integrity and our center operations have been excellent this year.
- Negotiations have increased for additional space for the center and Meals On Wheels operations.

Worship & Music (presented by Dennis Monsen)

- Two candidates have been interviewed for our Music Director position. The preferred candidate will play for the church service on Sunday, June 4th.
- The motion was made and passed to give approval to the Search Committee to hire the preferred candidate following her time with us on Sunday, June 4th.

Lutheran Elementary School (presented by Al Koehler)

- The next School Board meeting will be at the end of June.
- The Celebration of the Arts fundraiser on Saturday, May 20th was a successful, well attended event.

Property (presented by Steve Solby)

- Recently completed work:
 - Cleaned and repaired the gutters on the LES building roof.
 - Made repairs to the fence area behind the 415 Ovington Ave. school building to stop rain water from pouring into the backyard of a residence on 69th Street.
- Planned work:
 - Repair and waterproof the front of the 411 Ovington Avenue office building.
 - Restore the floors in the church sanctuary.
 - Paint the interior walls of the church sanctuary
 - Repairs to the roof of LES
 - Repairs to the roof and back wall of the 415 Ovington Ave. school building.

Sunday School (presented by Pastor Paul for Kathy Finkelstein)

- Three 4th grade Sunday School children will be moving up to Confirmation class next year.
- Three younger Sunday school children will be moving up to the 2nd – 4th grade class next year.
- Sunday School children truly love to serve as greeters and communion presenters for our worship service. It makes them feel a part of our Sunday church experience.
- Sunday School is now over until September.
- A special thank you given to our Sunday School Staff (Kathy Finkelstein, Christine Smith, Kathryn Kaiser, Liz Bohrer, Hannah Puelle, Aaron Pahwa, Valentina Garcia). Great job!

Healing Center (presented by Pastor Paul)

- The Healing Center Finance Committee met earlier today (May 23rd). The Fiscal year begins for many of our grants on July 1, 2017. Anxious to see if our funding is at the same level as this past year. We will be sending a personal request for financial support from the most financially stable congregations in our Metro NY Synod.
- The interest free loan motion from last month was modified in order to take out the verbiage requiring a separate account for the \$100,000 bequest. The money will be deposited in our regular Bethlehem Lutheran Church checking account, but ledgered separately.

Evangelism (presented by Deacon Tony)

- Deacon Tony continues to make phone calls and visits. He also continues to send cards for birthdays, anniversaries and healing.

Fellowship (presented by Kim Tran)

- Bethlehem Women's Group met on Friday, May 19th. They will meet again on the parsonage patio on Friday, June 16th. They will be making additional inspirational cards and they will begin another project making blankets for homebound or nursing home members.

(more)

Church Council Highlights — May 23, 2017 Meeting
(continued)

Finance Report (presented by Christine Puelle)

- The April 2017 financial report was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report (presented by Pastor Paul)

- Visitations (9), Funerals (3), Baptisms (2), Weddings (0)
- Youth activities and upcoming events were discussed.
- Property sale:
 - Litigation against us by the buyer stating a delay in the selling process.
 - We have retained a lawyer to defend us who is familiar with representing churches.
- Possible new site for the Bay Ridge Center.
- Two 2017 benevolences approved:
 - Koinonia = \$2,000
 - Lutheran Counseling Center = \$2,000
- 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (Ray Palermo)
 - New banner will be designed and purchased for the front of the church
 - A Lutheran Rose flag will be purchased for our flag pole in front of the church
 - Special Reformation anniversary messages will be added to our website and Facebook
 - A series of \$500 Reformation benevolence grants will be discussed at our next meeting.



Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome June!

June is one of my favorite months of the year! School is out, the weather is finally warm, the sun stays out later, which means the days feel longer. It is the month that celebrates Father's Day (June 18) and Flag Day (June 14). It is also Gay Pride Month. Another day to remember is our Night at the Races on June 2, an important fundraising event at the Center which will allow us to purchase items that our members need.

I want to encourage you all to take advantage of the longer days and beautiful weather by practicing something called self-care. We all love our family members and friends and when they get ill or need extra assistance, we quickly step into the caregiving role. And while caregiving is very important, it's also exhausting. During this process, we often put our own needs aside "temporarily" as we focus on the more urgent needs of our loved ones. But the problem is we are human, and we get burned out. June is the perfect month to practice selfcare because of the wonderful weather outside. You can spend time walking around your community parks and cloud gazing. You can lie back and relax and clear your mind. I'm personally a fan of walking by the beach, listening to the waves crashing and just enjoying the scenery. Sometimes a little break from life is all you need to recharge your battery and uplift your spirits.

During Gay Pride month here at the Center, it is important to understand the difficulties that people go through in their lives, trying to be comfortable in their own skin. I want to encourage everyone to stand up and be proud of who you are, and to love and respect your friends and acquaintances for who they are.

"Love yourself first and everything else falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world." - Lucille Ball

Nicole Jendryka

Director of Senior Center Services



Dear Friends,

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), raising awareness about elder abuse and neglect. According to the Institute on Aging - 1 in 10 Americans age 60+ experiences abuse. Elder Abuse includes instances of neglect and failure and refusal by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection. Physical abuse - inflicting, or threatening to inflict, pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, depriving them of basic needs. Emotional abuse - inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress through verbal and non-verbal acts and financial abuse and financial exploitation which can include misappropriation of an elder's assets, stealing money or valuables, evident in irregular pattern of spending/withdrawals, changes in last will and testament, misuse of credit cards and personal checks, and forging the elders signature.

Elder Abuse occurs when another person exercises power and control in an abusive way by belittling, imitating, denying access to spiritual traditions, ridiculing personal and cultural values and isolation and threatening the individual. It affects seniors from all socio-economic, backgrounds, cultures, and gender, race and faith traditions. Some of the signs of elder abuse are: bruises, broken bones, pressure marks, bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, abrasions, and frequent arguments between the caregiver which can include a family member. Elder abuse may go on hidden in families, people are afraid to come forward especially if the caregiver is a son or a daughter. Many elders who are victims of elder abuse do not report incidents, for every one person who reports abuse there are five who do not. We can do our part in helping an elder who is experiencing abuse, by listening and believing the person, by intervening when abuse is suspected, by educating others and watching for warning signs such as the ones mentioned above. Elder abuse can be reported to the local police or by calling Adult Protective Services via 311 and asking to report elder abuse. If you know of someone who is going through elder abuse you can also contact our Domestic Violence Educator/Family Worker, Ms. Maria Santiago at 718-238 5138.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Annual Interfaith Breakfast on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 from 10 AM – 12 PM. This year's theme is "Embracing the Sacred in our Work to End Intimate Violence". The breakfast will be held at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, downtown Brooklyn New York. Please call 718-238-5138 to RSVP.

Thank you for all your support and prayers. Have a safe summer.

Antonia Clemente
Executive Director

OUTRAGE AND HOPE, SIDE BY SIDE

By The Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Taylor, PhD, LCSW-R

Cheated. That's how I felt this past week at the memorial service of a close colleague of mine. In life, she was a vibrant force of nature. She lead, we followed. She was also unlucky. She had colorectal cancer that had metastasized. Why hadn't she been screened for it? Well, that's the tragic part. Screening for colon cancer typically begins at age 50. She was 48.

For me, a handful of funerals and memorial services stand out for a singular reason: they died too young. In some cases, way too young: a 35 year old, a 48 year old, a teen, an infant. Each time I felt cheated. The person lost cheated of a longer life. We loved ones cheated of their life with us. Our larger community cheated of their unique contribution to their community and larger society. These losses leave holes in our lives – holes difficult to replace, or, worse, that are irreplaceable.

Our congregations juggle a delicate balance. At funerals we gather to grieve, comfort each other, and celebrate the life of our loved one. We yearn to hear words spoken and sung offering solace, and, yes, hope. Death is not the last word. Most funerals and memorial services minister to those yearnings. However, there is an added burden when someone has died too young. Recognizing our sense of feeling cheated – with its outrage and anger – assists our mourners to more fully metabolize - digest - tragic losses that none of us are equipped to handle.

The loss of another close friend - a working mom with 2 daughters under 5 – struck down by cancer at 35 felt incomprehensible. At her memorial close friends spoke fondly, some humorously of our lost friend, trying to offer solace. But one friend expressed a sentiment I've never forgotten. He was "outraged" at the injustice of losing a friend so young. Outrage. Yes. That's how I felt. Outraged and cheated. His words helped - helped me better identify and digest the indigestible. Some funerals and memorials services are tasked with helping mourners grieve the impossible, digest the indigestible. Certain losses, certain deaths, are beyond sense.

A psychological rule of thumb is at work here. The unconscious is capable of holding, side by side, contradictory experiences, emotions, and thoughts. In our unconscious, outrage and hope stand side by side. Despair with laughter. Feeling cheated side by side with a sense of solace. Consciousness, our waking awareness, does not hold opposites so easily. We careen from one emotion to another, not in tandem but one after another, pushing back and forth. Kubler-Ross spoke of this in her stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. All true. Yet, incomplete. Rarely does grief come so orderly. Kubler-Ross shortchanged grief's vast repertoire of emotions.

I invite all who mourn to welcome our fuller spectrum of human emotions roiling within us as we face the inevitable losses life brings us. We rage at some losses, especially the premature ones, AND, yet, we hold out hope. Death is not the last word. It's 'both / and'. We are more fully human for recognizing that both reside within us.

(MORE)

OUTRAGE AND HOPE, SIDE BY SIDE (continued)

The intercession prayer from our Funeral Rite speaks to this 'both/and':

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in... the resurrection to life everlasting.

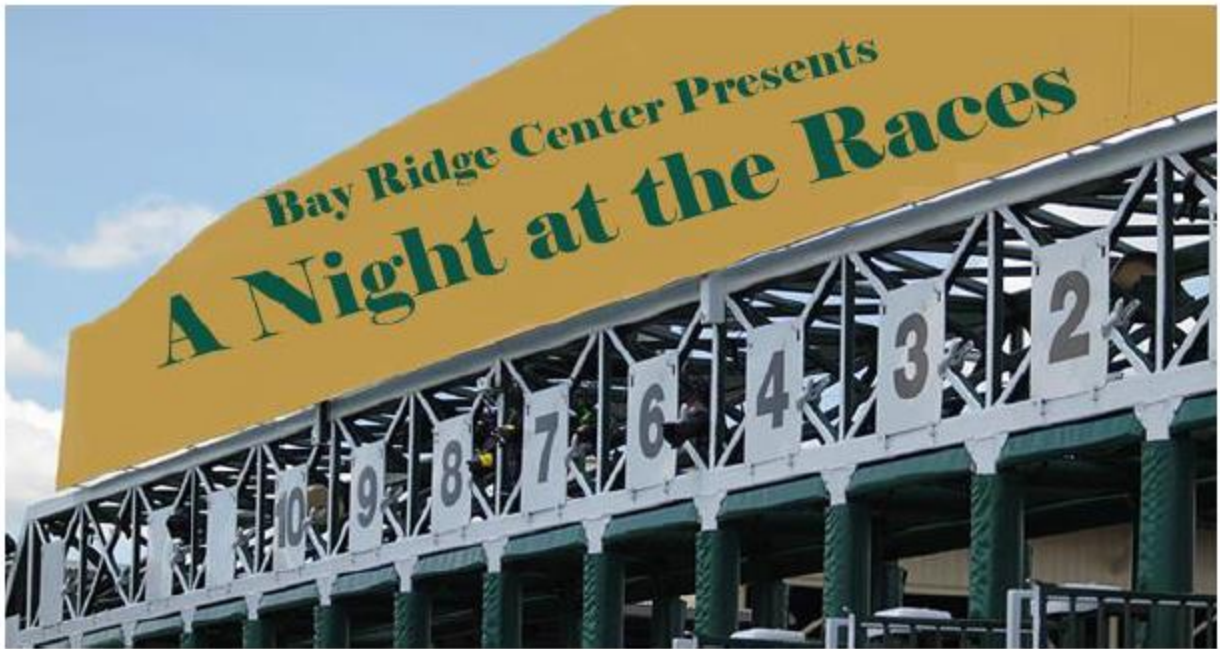
Beyond our liturgy rites, other spaces and relationships collaborate with our congregations in this important ministry. One such space, one such relationship, can be found in seeking out trusted listeners who help us recognize the full range of our human emotions.

And one space offering such listeners is The Lutheran Counseling Center.

Dr. Taylor is counselor-in-residence at Advent Lutheran Church in New York, NY, and at LCC's Bronxville site, helping individuals, couples and families with a variety of mental health issues.

Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 for more information or to set an appointment. LCC has nine counseling sites in and around metropolitan New York. Visit our website at www.lccny.org.

From the Bay Ridge Center



Friday, June 2, 2017

6935 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

Doors Open 6:00 PM

First Race 7:00 PM

\$4,999.99 Spring Raffle Drawing 10:00 PM

\$35.00 per person

Full Italian Dinner & Dessert

Wine and Beer Available

Games of Chance

Prize Raffles

All proceeds benefit Bay Ridge Center's programs and services.

TICKETS:

By Phone: 718-748-0650, ext. 115

Online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-at-the-races-tickets-33583043788>

From the Bay Ridge Center

Bay Ridge Center 2017 Spring Raffle



\$4,999.99

Winner Takes It All!

All Proceeds to benefit the Bay Ridge Center

**Drawing June 2nd at
"Night at the Races"**

**\$100 per ticket
(Only 150 tickets will be sold)**

***Winner does not need to be present to win**

**To purchase tickets:
Contact Todd Fliedner at (718) 748-0650, X115
Online:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bay-ridge-center-spring-raffle-499999-prize-winner-takes-it-all-tickets-31843452624>

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4th & Ovington Avenues

Brooklyn NY 11209

718-748-9502

www.bethlehembayridge.org

Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 AM

All are welcome here



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Bethlehembayridge/](http://www.facebook.com/Bethlehembayridge/)

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